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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05319 271514Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SES-03 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10
L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00 /074 W
----------096676 271520Z /44
O R 271445Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1964
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSYBONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
RUDKSNQXAMEMBASSY OSLO 41
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USDOCOSOUTH
ECOM
USCINCNAVEUR
RULYQJQQKCOMSIXTHFLT
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R ELT TUNIS 5319

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: NTO, UR, TS, PINR
SUBJECT: SOVIET USE OF MENZEL-BOURGUIBA DOCKYARDS

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REF: USNATO 7165 (NOTAL)

1. ITALIAN RTOQYS REPORT OF SOVIET ATTEMPT TO BYPASS TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN GAINING ACCESS TO MENZELA BOURGUIBA ORIGINATES WITH ITALIAN MISSION IN TUNIS, WHICH HAS GIVEN OUR DATT FULLER VERSION (USDAO MESSAGE 271429Z JUL) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED IS, IF CON-

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FIRMED, OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST.

2. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN SOURCES, SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER WAS TOLD PRIOR TO RECENT VISIT BY SUB AND TENDER (WHICH BEGAN ON JULY 10, NOT JULY 21) THAT VISIT NOT APPROVED SINCE AUTHORIZATION NOT REQUESTED IN ADVANCE. SOVIETS THEN PRODUCED COPY OF CONTRACT SIGNED BY DIRECTOR MENZEL-BOURGUIBA DOCKYARDS (SOCOMENA) DURING HIS VISIT IN MOSCOW LAST FALL. MINISTER OF DEFENSE FARHAT WAS INFORMED AND STATED HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF SUCH CONTRACT AND THAT VISIT COULD NOT TAKE PLACE. SOVIET AMBASSADOR THEN CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA (SUCH A CALLDID IN FACT TAKE PLACE ABOUT THAT TIME) IN ATTEMPT TO HAVE HIM OVERRULE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. PRIME MINISTER AGREED TO VISIT ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS SINCE SUB AND TENDER WERE ALREADY AT PORT, BUT INFORMED AMBASSADOR KOLOKOLOV THAT IN FUTURE PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING VISITS MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO AND IN FUTURE HE WOULD NOT PERMIT REPAIR VISITS BY SOVIET SUBMARINES, ONLY SURFACE VESSELS.

3. IN VIEW OF FACT ABOVE INFORMATION UNCONFIRMED AND, IF CORRECT, PROBABLY INVOLVES SENSITIVE SOURCES, REQUEST THAT ALL ADDRESSEES STRICTLY OBSERVE NOFORN CAPTION THIS MESSAGE.

4. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT NUMBER OF SOVIET VISITS TO MENZEL-BOURGUIBA, WITH ESTIMATES

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RUNNING AS HIGH AS SIX. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY THREE THIS YEAR--IN MARCH, APRIL AND JULY (WHICH ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE). IT HAS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING, OF COURSE, THAT THERE WAS AN AGREEMENT FOR UP TO TWENTY VISIT A YEAR. WE SHOULD ALSO POINT OUT, FOR THE RECORD, THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WESTERN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENT OTHER THAN TO SAY WE COULD EXPECT TO SEE NUMBER OF VISITS DECLINE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 27 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780711/aaaaaixv.tel
Line Count: 104
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: SECRET
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 78 USNATO 7165
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Subject: SOVIET USE OF MENZEL-BOURGUIBA DOCKYARDS SECRET SECRET
TAGS: PINR, OTRA, UR, TS
To: STATE USNATO
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